

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 08337 101619Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03
OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 EPG-02
SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01 AGR-05 ARA-10 EA-07
EUR-12 /117 W
-----110323Z 020932 /70

R 101242Z UN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4009
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
U.S. MISSION GENEVA 1550
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 1652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN, UNCTAD, IN
SUBJECT: UNCTAD: COMMODITIES - MANGANESE

REF: GENEVA 3618

1. EMBOFF TALKED WITH MINISTRY OF COMMERCE JOINT SECRETARY SHUKLA ABOUT NEXT WEEK'S UNCTAD MEETING ON MANGANESE. HE SAID THAT, BECAUSE OF THE UPCOMING BUDGET SESSION PARLIAMENT, NO OFFICIAL FROM DELHI WOULD BE ATTENDING THE MEETING. THE GOI PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA WOULD HEAD THE INDIAN DELEGATION.

2. SHUKLA SAID THAT THE GOI WAS STILL FORMULATING ITS POSITION AND WAS AWAITING SOME DOCUMENTATION FROM THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT. HE AGREED THAT FLUCTUATIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRICE OF MANGANESE HAD NOT BEEN A PROBLEM IN THE PAST. THEREFORE, HE
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THOUGHT THAT A BUFFER STOCK CONCEPT MIGHT NOT BE APPLICABLE TO ANY COMMODITY AGREEMENT ON MANGANESE. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE BELIEVED THAT THE MEETING SHOULD CONSIDER WAYS TO PROTECT THE PURCHASING POWER OF LDC PRODUCERS IN PARTICULAR AND TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL HELP TO LDOS TO UPGRADE ORE CONTENT.

3. SHUKLA THOUGHT THAT, SINCE BOTH DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES EXPORTED MANGANESE, THERE SHOULD BE A COMMON INTEREST IN REACHING AN AGREEMENT. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED BECAUSE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S PROMINENT POSITION IN THE WORLD MANGANESE PICTURE.

4. SHUKLA EMPHASIZED HIS VIEW THAT INDIA WAS A RELATIVELY SMALL MANGANESE EXPORTER AND WOULD CONTINUE TO REMAIN SO. AS A RESULT, HE SAID, INDIA'S INTEREST IN A MANGANESE AGREEMENT WAS NOT SO MUCH FROM A TRADING POINT OF VIEW, BUT STEMMED FROM THE GOI'S POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO AN INTEGRATED COMMODITY PROGRAM. SHUKLA SAID THAT INDIAN HIGH GRADE MANGANESE ORE EXPORTS WERE NOW BANNED AND THAT THE INDIAN STEEL INDUSTRY WAS CONSUMING LOW GRADE MANGANESE. REFERRING TO THE NEED FOR CONSERVATION AS WELL AS UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE SIZE OF INDIA'S STEEL INDUSTRY, HE DID NOT THINK THAT EXPORT CONTROLS WOULD BE PUT ON LOW OR MEDIUM GRADE MANGANESE EXPORTS. HE BELIEVED THAT THE FUTURE GROWTH OF INDIAN MANGANESE EXPORTS WOULD BE QUITE MODEST AND THAT FUTURE IMPORTS OF HIGH GRADE MANGANESE WOULD BE LIMITED.

5. COMMENT: IN 1974 INDIA EXPORTED A RECORD LEVEL OF SLIGHTLY OVER ONE MILLION MT OF MANGANESE. EXPORTS LAST FISCAL YEAR (1976/77) AMOUNTED TO APPROXIMATELY 830,000 MT. IMPORTS ARE MINIMAL AVERAGING AROUND 5,000 MT OF HIGH GRADE MILLED ORE PER ANNUM. APPROXIMATELY 11 PERCENT OF INDIA'S PRESENT ANNUAL MANGANESE PRODUCTION OF 1.7 MILLION MT CONSISTS OF HIGH GRADE ORE. (48 PERCENT MEDIUM AND ABOVE).

GOHEEN

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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